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SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS EVENT

REF: SECSTATE 70829

¶1. (SBU) Recently appointed MFA Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights Istvan Lakatos received text of reftel request on July 2 and discussed the issue with PolOff on July 10. Lakatos stated that Hungary would participate in the prisoners of conscience public affairs event on July 24 but could not formally co-sponsor the event. Lakatos cited the lack of EU consensus on co-sponsorship and Hungary's unwillingness to break ranks or act unilaterally on this issue.

¶2. (SBU) Given that Foreign Minister Kinga Goncz's father was a prisoner of conscience, MFA Americas Director Szilveszter Bus indicated that the FM may be amenable to even further public support for this or related initiatives. Embassy will discuss further with senior MFA officials and keep the Department apprised of any developments in this regard.

Foley